



Lakewood Fire District No. 1

733 Cedar Bridge Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2025

Subject: Fire Department Establishes New Rescue Company

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FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHES NEW RESCUE COMPANY

The Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners along with Fire Chief Jonathan Yahr are proud to announce the creation of a new Rescue Company designed to enhance the Fire Department's emergency response capabilities and provide specialized rescue services to the community.

This highly trained and dedicated unit will address some of the most challenging and complex emergencies, including hazardous materials (HAZMAT) incidents, structural collapses, trench rescues, high-angle and low-angle rescues, and confined space operations. The Rescue Company will be staffed by a skilled team of both career and volunteer members, exemplifying the department's commitment to collaboration and excellence.

The creation of the Rescue Company was officially approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners during its most recent meeting held on January 13, 2025. The company is expected to begin responding to emergencies in the third quarter of this year. In preparation, team members are currently undergoing the necessary training to ensure readiness for the diverse and complex scenarios they may encounter.

“Our new Rescue Company represents a significant step forward in our mission to protect life and property,” said Chief of Department Jonathan Yahr. “By combining the expertise and dedication of our career and volunteer firefighters, we’re building a team that is prepared to respond to the most critical and complex emergencies.”

The Fire Department is well-positioned to launch this specialized unit, as it currently employs:

- 11 members trained in Rope Rescue;
- 10 members trained in Confined Space Rescue;
- 7 members trained in Trench Rescue;
- 10 Structural Collapse Specialists; and
- 16 Hazmat Technicians.



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The Rescue Company will utilize state-of-the-art equipment and comprehensive training to ensure readiness for a wide range of technical rescue scenarios. Team members have undergone and continue to undergo rigorous training in accordance with national standards, ensuring the highest level of preparedness and professionalism.

“We’re incredibly proud of the collaboration that went into forming this unit,” said Township Committeeman and Emergency Services Liaison Meir Lichtenstein. “The creation of the Fire Department’s Rescue Company not only strengthens our emergency response capabilities but also underscores the vital role that both career and volunteer firefighters play in our community.”

The addition of the Rescue Company is a testament to the Lakewood Fire Department’s commitment to innovation, community safety, and the ongoing development of its members.

The Lakewood Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners, along with Lakewood Fire Department Fire Chief Jonathan Yahr, continue to seek individuals who have a desire to serve the Lakewood Community. Individuals interested in becoming volunteer firefighters are encouraged to visit the Fire Department website at www.LakewoodFD.org and submit the requested information expressing their interest through the “Join / Apply Today” link <https://lakewoodfd.org/join/>. For more information about the Lakewood Fire Department or please visit our website at www.LakewoodFD.org.

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